

REMARKS

Claims 19-36 are pending in the application.

Appropriate headings have been added to the specification, and claims from the literal translation have been replaced by claims drafted in conformity with U.S. Patent practice. An abstract has also been added to the specification.

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions, or wish to discuss the merits of the application, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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* for Examiner's Reference *

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 18: Cancelled

19. (New) A safety seat for land vehicles, aircraft, or vessels, comprising:

a harness (10) that is adapted to be suspended from fixed points of a vehicle and to be placed on an occupant of the vehicle, without fixed components, for supporting the occupant;

belt retractors (18, 20, 22, 24) disposed at the fixed points of the vehicle;

fabric supporting belts (17, 19, 21, 23) that extend from said harness (10) to said belt retractors (18, 20, 22, 24), wherein said belt retractors pretension said supporting belts in a direction of retraction; and

a switching device (25, 26) that is adapted to be operated by the occupant for switching said belt retractors (18, 20, 22, 24) into a free running state, a blocking state, or a positioning state, wherein said free running state permits free withdrawal of said supporting belts in a direction opposite to said pretension, wherein said blocking state effects a complete blocking of said supporting belts in both said withdrawal and said retraction directions, and wherein said positioning state effects a blocking of said supporting belts in only said withdrawal direction.

20. (New) A safety seat according to claim 19, wherein said harness (10) comprises a belt sling (11) that is adapted to support the buttocks of the occupant and is provided with two longitudinal belts (12) that are adapted to extend along the upper body of the occupant, at least one back belt (13) that is adapted to connect the longitudinal belts (12, 14) behind the occupant's body, two shoulder belts (12) that start at the longitudinal belts (12) and are adapted

to extend over the occupant's shoulders, two lap belts (15) that are attached to the longitudinal belts (12), and a central belt buckle (16), wherein free ends of the shoulder belts (14) and the lap belts (15) are adapted to be buckled together in said central belt buckle (16).

21. (New) A safety seat according to claim 20, wherein said longitudinal belts (12), in an elongation as two of said supporting belts (17), each extend to a given one of said belt retractors (18) located above said seat, and wherein two further ones of said supporting belts (19) are attached to said sling (11) in the hip area of the occupant and each extend to a given one of said belt retractors (20) disposed in front of said seat, so that said harness (10) is suspended from at least four spaced-apart belt retractors (18, 20).

22. (New) A safety seat according to claim 19, wherein ones of said supporting belts (17, 19) are detachably connected with associated belt segments of said harness (10).

23. (New) A safety seat according to claim 19, wherein each of said supporting belts (17, 19) extends through and is supported on said harness (10) in a looped manner and extends from said harness to a further belt retractor (18a, 20a) in such a way that opposite ends of each of said supporting belts (17, 19), on opposite sides of said looped support on said harness (10), are respectively connected to one of said belt retractors (18, 18a, 20, 20a), and wherein each of said further belt retractors (18a, 20a) is connected to a further switching device (25a) having the functions free running state, blocking state and positioning state.

24. (New) A safety seat according to claim 19, wherein each of said supporting belts (17, 19) extends through and is supported on said harness (10) in a looped manner, wherein ends of said supporting belts, on opposite sides of said looped support on said harness (10), are attached to associated ones of said belt retractors (18, 20), wherein switching devices (25, 25a) that are adapted to be operated separately and have the functions of free running state, blocking state and positioning state are associated with each of said belt retractors (18, 20), and wherein each of said switching devices (25, 25a) controls a state of movement of one of said ends of said

supporting belts (17, 19) that are connected to said belt retractors (18, 20).

25. (New) A safety seat according to claim 24, wherein said supporting belts (17, 19) have a length such that when each belt is completely withdrawn from all of said belt retractors (18, 20), said safety seat is disposed in a lowermost position thereof.

26. (New) A safety seat according to claim 20, wherein a given one of said supporting belts (21) that extends to a given one of said belt retractors (22) that is disposed in a floor area of said vehicle is secured to said sling (11).

27. (New) A safety seat according to claim 20, wherein one of said supporting belts (23) that extends to a given one of said belt retractors (24) that is disposed on said vehicle in the area of the back of the occupant is connected to said at least one back belt (13) of said sling (11).

28. (New) A safety seat according to claim 27, wherein two back belts (13, 13a) disposed in the area of the shoulder and hip of the occupant, are attached to said longitudinal belts (12), and wherein said one supporting belt (23) is connected to that back belt (13) that is disposed in the shoulder area.

29. (New) A safety seat according to claim 28, wherein that back belt (13a) that is located in the hip area, and adjacent sections of said longitudinal belts (12), are interconnected by a fabric seating surface.

30. (New) A safety seat according to claim 28, wherein said longitudinal belts (12) and said back belts (13, 13a) are interconnected by a fabric backrest.

31. (New) A safety seat according to claim 27, wherein said supporting belts (21, 23) are detachably connected with associated belt sections of said harness (10).

32. (New) A safety seat according to claim 30, wherein belt sections of said harness (10) are adapted to be releasably attached to ones of said supporting belts (21, 23) and are integrated into and connected to clothing adapted to be worn by the occupant.

33. (New) A safety seat according to claim 19, wherein a switching device (25, 25a) having a switching lever (26) that is adapted to be moved between three positions is attached to the vehicle within reach of the occupant, and wherein control lines (27, 27a) lead from said switching device (25, 25a) to each of said belt retractors (18, 18a, 20, 20a, 22, 24).

34. (New) A safety seat according to claim 19, wherein said pretension of said belt retractors that acts in the direction of belt retraction is induced by spring tension.

35. (New) A safety seat according to claim 19, wherein said pretension of said belt retractors that acts in the direction of belt retraction is adapted to be produced by an active drive for belt shafts of said belt retractors.

36. (New) A safety seat according to claim 19, wherein blocking of said belts in said belt withdrawal direction in said positioning state is adapted to be provided by a ratchet mechanism.